



PGS Officers

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- Shirley Morris Historian
- Ed Richmond Publicity
- Sheryl Chambers Newsletter

President's Corner

Fellow Members,

We hope everyone enjoyed the holiday luncheon today as much as we did! Thanks for the great turnout and your generous gift donations.

After lunch Wendi and I delivered the gifts to GRACE's Christmas Cottage and learned about the service they provide our community. We were given a tour of their warehouse and "store" and were so impressed we wanted to share with you a little of what we learned.

If you are new to this area and not familiar with GRACE, it is a centralized, coordinated effort of churches, businesses and individuals donating food, clothing, monetary donations, and even professional services to Grapevine, Colleyville and Southlake residents, as well as homeless and transient families in need. Their Christmas Cottage allows parents to shop in a store-like setting, choosing gifts for their children. In addition to the toys, each family is allowed to select a family gift (for example a Crock-pot). GRACE has already committed to 600 families for this year and hopes to provide for over 1500 children. The "store" opens tomorrow the 10th, even though donations are still needed. This is necessary because of the number of families that must be brought in before December 21. They were very appreciative of the club's donation and asked that we remember them in the future.

Happy holidays, Beckie and Wendi



From the dirt up - The Poinsettia



The plant most associated with the holidays is *Euphorbia pulcherrim*. Commonly known as **poinsettia**, this species of flowering plant is indigenous to Mexico and Guatemala. The name "poinsettia" is after Joel Roberts Poinsett, the first United States Minister to Mexico, who introduced the plant into the US in 1828.



The plants' association with Christmas began in 16th century Mexico, where legend tells of a

young girl who was too poor to provide a gift for the celebration of Jesus' birthday. The tale goes that the child was inspired by an angel to gather weeds from the roadside and place them in front of the church altar. Crimson "blossoms" sprouted from the weeds and became beautiful poinsettias. From the 17th century, Franciscan friars in Mexico included the plants in their Christmas celebrations.

If eaten, poinsettias may sometimes cause diarrhea and vomiting in animals and humans. If the sap of the Poinsettia accidentally gets into a hu-



The Poinsettia (cont.)

man's eye, it can cause temporary blindness. Even dry sap has an effect on the eye. To help keep you plant beautiful through the holidays, check your poinsettia daily and follow these tips. Water your poinsettia frequently but don't drown it. Keep the plant out of drafts, hot or cold. Be sure to place your plant in a spot where it will get good light inside the house. And finally, after blooming, discard or begin preparing the plant to bloom again next year. Poinsettias are perhaps the most difficult flowering potted plants to rebloom indoors. If you want to keep your plant from year to year, make sure that you water frequently after the blooms have faded. Cut the stems back to about 6 inches in March. Then, from the first of October

until the colored bracts can be seen it should not receive any light at night. Cover the plant at dusk every evening with a light-proof bag and uncover about 8:00 AM in the morning. A closet may be ideal to put it in at night. Even a quick, short exposure to even dim light may inhibit re-bloom. To have the plant in full bloom by Christmas, keep it in complete darkness from 5 p.m. to 8 a.m. starting the first week in October and continuing until Thanksgiving. Flowering will be delayed if the plant receives ANY supplemental lighting during this period. The poinsettia will set flower buds only after being exposed to the short day (10 hours of light or less) for about 10 weeks.



Bulb Tips

Most of the bulbs given out at lunch Wednesday were daffodils which don't require being pre-chilled. Here is a summary of the instructions for those that didn't receive a copy

- Store bulbs in a cool, dark, dry place with low humidity away from heat and frost until they are planted. **Do not put them in a refrigerator.**
- Plant once the weather has turned consistently cool after a killing frost or when the ground temperature is at least 55 degrees. If neither happens, plant by late December.
- Most bulbs prefer sun but will tolerate dappled sun beneath deciduous trees. Bulbs may

rot if drainage is poor.

- Plant at a depth of 2 to 3 times the bulb's length.
- Do not use a high nitrogen fertilizer and do not add fertilizer to the planting hole.
- Water after planting to keep them moist and during the growing season.
- Always let the green foliage grow and die naturally. This foliage is necessary for next year's flower.

More info: www.southerbulbs.com or www.texasdaffodilsociety.org

Next meeting January 13 -
Ed Richmond's house
1313 Stone Lakes Dr.
Southlake
Coffee & Refreshments at 9:30
Meeting at 10:00

January PGS Meeting

As we continue with our theme of "From the Ground Up", the January meeting will help us understand more about hardscape. Rick Edwards will be our guest speaker.

These are important elements in the landscape plan, and this meeting will help you understand how to incorporate them into your Master Plan. Please join us at Ed's house on the 13th!



Felder Rushing - January 28th!

Hope you have your calendars marked! We're so excited to have Felder joining us.

If you need additional tickets, please contact Beckie ASAP.



The Perennial Garden Society is a non-profit organization dedicated to educating its members on gardening topics specific to the North Texas area. The primary focus of the group is native and adapted drought tolerant perennials and grasses. Our purpose is to promote, encourage and share ideas with other gardeners regarding the implementation of native and adapted perennial in the suburban Texas landscape.